

This inventory describes under Nos. 55031 to 55039 nine newly originated varieties of Finnish oats sent in from Helsingfors, some of which are reported to be improvements over the Guldregn variety, which is a standard in Finland, and others which are said to be particularly suited for cultivation on swampy land.

Sixty varieties of sorghum have been collected for Mr. Vinall, the sorghum specialist of the department, by the director of agriculture of the Sudan Government from all over the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in the region tributary to Khartum (Nos. 55106 to 55165).

For the strawberry breeders the Irapuato variety (No. 54976) from the famous strawberry region of that name in Mexico will be of interest.

The search for varieties of corn which may furnish new characters to be incorporated into our American varieties has been extended to eastern Asia, and through our agricultural explorer, Mr. Rock, we have received from the slopes of Doi Chang Mountain, in upper Siam, a variety (No. 55045) which from time immemorial has been grown by the Miaos, those jungle natives who have long inhabited the high mountains of Siam and who are corn-eating people, despite the fact that all around them the Siamese and Chinese subsist on a diet of rice.

For the pear breeders and those particularly interested in the discovery of a better stock than the one we have for the cultivated pear Mr. Rock has secured seeds of *Pyrus pashia* (No. 54998) from the region of Kengtung, Burma, which, according to the information he could obtain, is used by the natives there as a stock for the sand pear. He has also sent in two new forms (Nos. 55497 and 55550) which he found cultivated near Talifu, in the Province of Yunnan.

Whether the sugar cane (No. 55501) which Mr. Rock found in cultivation in the dry arid region of Yunnan at 6,000 feet elevation will prove a shorter season variety than those we now have, only a trial will disclose.

Mr. Rock's discovery and introduction of the new species of cherry, *Prunus majestica* (Nos. 55417, 55476, 55498, and 55500), from this same region of Yunnan, where, he reports, it makes a tree 30 feet high on the exposed dry ridges 6,000 feet above sea level and produces its juicy bitter-fleshed fruits in great abundance in February and March, may mean the origination of cherries for our Southern States or it may mean a new stock for the cultivated cherry of the North which is more drought resistant than the mazzard or the mahaleb.

Whether one or other of these discoveries which Mr. Rock has made will, after the lapse of years, repay him in a measure for the months of hard work and discomfort and isolation which he has been through in his difficult journey into Yunnan from Siam over trails which have never been traveled before by botanists, or whether it will be the loveliness of his new flowering Cassia (No. 55049), which he discovered near Szemao and which in March he found covered with a mass of deep-pink flowers, time alone will show.

From peach seeds introduced several years ago from Valencia, Spain, there have originated at the Chico Plant Introduction Garden two new and, Mr. Morrow believes, particularly promising varieties of peaches for canning purposes (Nos. 55563 and 55564).